

Palau Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) **FACT SHEET**



The Palau YTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Palau could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Palau YTS was a school-based survey of students in

Grades 6-12, conducted in 2001. All regular public and private schools containing grades 6-12 participated in the survey. All classes were selected and all students in each class were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 90.6%, and the overall response rate was 90.6%. A total of 1,889 students participated in the Palau YTS. Data presented below are for 13-15 year olds only.

Prevalence

61.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 63.0%, Female = 60.1%)
 57.1% had ever chewed betelnut with any form of tobacco
 58.5% currently use any tobacco product (Male = 54.8%, Female = 62.3%)
 21.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 23.3%, Female = 20.0%)
 53.7% currently chew betelnut with any form of tobacco
 53.5% currently use other tobacco products (Male = 49.5%, Female = 57.5%)
 16.8% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

[DATA NOT AVAILABLE]

Access and Availability - Current Tobacco Users

10.5% buy cigarettes in a store
 13.0% buy betelnut chew in a store
 69.0% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

46.0% live in homes where others smoke
 49.1% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 78.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 39.5% think chewing betelnut with cigarettes or smokeless tobacco is less harmful than cigarettes or smokeless tobacco alone
 30.7% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Tobacco Users

76.8% want to stop smoking
 27.0% want to stop adding cigarettes or smokeless tobacco to betelnut chew
 42.1% want to stop chewing betelnut altogether

Media and Advertising

26.3% have an object with a cigarette brand logo

School

57.4% ever practiced ways to say NO to smoking cigarettes or using smokeless tobacco
 47.2% ever practiced ways to say NO to adding cigarettes or smokeless tobacco to betelnut chew

Highlights

- 58% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 22% currently smoke cigarettes; 54% currently use other forms of tobacco.
- Almost 6 in 10 students ever chewed betelnut with tobacco; over half currently chew betelnut with tobacco.
- ETS exposure is very high – almost half of students live in homes where others smoke; almost half are exposed to smoke in public places.
- 8 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- 4 in 10 think chewing betelnut with cigarettes or smokeless tobacco is less harmful than cigarette smoking.
- Almost 8 in 10 smokers want to stop; less than 3 in 10 betelnut chewers who add tobacco want to stop; only 4 in 10 want to stop altogether.